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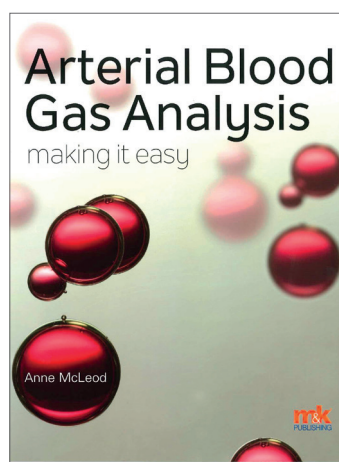
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Book Reviews

Arterial Blood Gas Analysis: making it easy



- **Anne McLeod**
M & K Publishing (2016)
ISBN: 9781910451-05-2
72 pages, PB, £17.00, eBook £14.39



The author Anne McLeod, a Senior Lecturer in Critical Care, gives an easy to follow account of arterial blood gases. The book totals 59 pages of text with a logical layout that encompasses a series of diagrams, figures and tables to aid understanding. It is a factual book aimed at students and practitioners who have either never studied arterial blood gases before or who have found the concept difficult to retain.

The book is presented in six chapters that look at defining arterial blood gases, interpretation and discussing results. The penultimate chapter focuses upon patient management using three case studies to help the reader appreciate the suitability and significance of blood gas readings to the individual patient in their care setting. The concluding chapter outlines the care of a patient with an arterial line focusing upon monitoring and observation; a chapter that is useful for practitioners across a wide spectrum of clinical practice. This chapter could have, in my opinion, also addressed the psychological care of the patient to make it a more holistic person-centred approach.

Overall the structure and visual impact makes this book worth considering. What is useful for any practitioner or student are the 'test yourself' questions at the end of each

chapter. The answers are documented at the end of the book making this a good 'go to' source for exam revision. Overall this is a logical, succinct and easy to read book that is a recommended read for perioperative practitioners and students of any health care profession wanting to enhance their knowledge and understanding of arterial blood gases. It is available in paperback and a very accessible and user friendly 'take anywhere' eBook version accessible on hand held devices for a low cost.

In conclusion, arterial blood gas interpretation is a fundamental element of acute care whether in the emergency department, intensive care unit, coronary care unit or perioperative setting and one that, in my experience, students approach with the pre-conceived notion that they will be unable to analyse and interpret. To find a text that approaches this topic in a logical, non-complicated way is refreshing. I will be sure to include it on my reading lists in the coming academic session.

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